From: News and Information about water quality from the Department of Ecology

To: <u>ECOLOGY-WATER-QUALITY-INFO@LISTSERV.WA.GOV</u>

Subject: Ecology hosts second Water Quality Policy Forum on Dec. 10

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The Department of Ecology (Ecology) is convening the second Water Quality Policy Forum to continue discussions on potential changes to the Surface Water Quality Standards (WAC 173-201A). The Policy Forums will discuss the new rulemaking processes to adopt new human health-based water quality criteria and implementation tools.

How can I attend this Policy Forum?

Ecology is hosting the second Policy Forum meeting as an interactive webinar. The webinar will occur on Monday, December 10, 2012, from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (PST). Webinar participants will be able to ask questions, participate in discussions, and watch presentations from any online computer or in person at Ecology headquarters in Lacey. Free registration for the webinar is available online at: https://www.accuconference.com/customer/Registration/index.aspx? pkRegQG=62781d73-3070-4bd1-91fe-ca9208773062.

Due to technological limitations, Ecology is unable to provide both webinar and video conference sites together. Ecology staff will present the webinar at the Department of Ecology, 300 Desmond Drive SE, Lacey, WA 98504 (directions). Seating for interested parties is available at that location.

How has the Policy Forum changed since the last meeting?

The last Policy Forum, held October 29, 2012, focused on creating a conversation with members of the Delegate's Table. Ecology established a Delegate's Table to provide advice and perspective to the agency as it addresses the complex science and public policy issues of the rulemaking. Ecology listened to feedback from both Delegate's and Policy Forum participants, and decided to hold more education sessions before reconvening the Delegate's Table. The Policy Forum will continue to provide education on the two rule making topics, and will offer more engagement opportunities for participants. The Delegate's Table will reconvene in early 2013 to focus on policy issues identified from the Policy Forum.

How can I find more information?

More information about the Policy Forum, including a meeting agenda, is available at http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/wq/swqs/hhcpolicyforum.html.

To find out more about Ecology's efforts to revise the Surface Water Quality Standards, contact:

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